

February 21

2 Thessalonians 3

**“Letter Re: Lazy
Busybodies”**



**¹ Finally, brethren,
pray for us, that the
word of the Lord may
have free course, and
be glorified, even as it
is with you: ² And that
we may be delivered
from unreasonable
and wicked men: for
all men have not faith.**

**³ But the Lord is
faithful, who shall
stablish you, and
keep you from evil.**

**⁴ And we have
confidence in the Lord
touching you, that ye**

**both do and will do
the things which we
command you. ⁵ And
the Lord direct your
hearts into the love of
God, and into the
patient waiting for
Christ. ⁶ Now we
command you,
brethren, in the name
of our Lord Jesus
Christ, that ye
withdraw yourselves
from every brother
that walketh
disorderly, and not
after the tradition**

**which he received of
us. ⁷ For yourselves
know how ye ought to
follow us: for we
behaved not ourselves
disorderly among you;
⁸ Neither did we eat
any man's bread for
nought; but wrought
with labour and travail
night and day, that we
might not be
chargeable to any of
you: ⁹ Not because we
have not power, but to
make ourselves an
ensample unto you to**

follow us. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

¹¹ For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. ¹² Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work,

**and eat their own
bread. ¹³ But ye,
brethren, be not weary
in well doing. ¹⁴ And if
any man obey not our
word by this epistle,
note that man, and
have no company with
him, that he may be
ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet
count him not as an
enemy, but
admonish him as a
brother. ¹⁶ Now the
Lord of peace himself
give you peace always
by all means. The**

**Lord be with you all.
17 The salutation of
Paul with mine own
hand, which is the
token in every epistle:
so I write. 18 The grace
of our Lord Jesus
Christ be with you all.
Amen.**

2 Thessalonians 3 is a letter from Paul to one group of Believers during a time in history. Notice that this is not God speaking. No part of it is a

promise or direct instruction from God. Further, it is not, nor can it ever be applicable to every congregation of Believers (either during the time it was first written or now). Yet, there are principles which may be relevant to present-day life.

The first and last parts of this letter consist of well-wishes, a request for prayer, desires for

Believers, and general greetings and salutations. The body of the letter is basically about keeping oneself from the influence of lazy busybodies who don't work but, instead, start and stir chaos among Believers. Look at the verses about separating from that type of behavior:

“...withdraw yourselves from

every brother that
walketh disorderly...”
(6),

“...there are some
which walk among
you disorderly,
working not at all,
but are busybodies.”
(11)

and, “... **note that man,**
and have no company
with him...”
(14).

However, verse 15 seems to flip the script in saying to, “...count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.”

So, how does a Believer admonish a busybody brother, when the Believer has withdrawn himself or herself? How would one separate from a lazy busybody “brother” during quarantine in a small home, for example? How can a true Believer

have “no company” with a professing Believer (who is actually not a practicing Believer) if they are both roommates in a nursing home or inmates in a jail cell or prison, or in any situation where a Believer is, to some degree, isolated with one or more busybody “brothers”?

How do you have “no company” with a person who provides for your essential needs? How

could a believing child
have no company with a
busybody, so-called
“believing” parent? How
could a believing wife
withdraw herself from her
disorderly husband? In
cases where an older adult
Believer is cared for by an
adult child (who happens
to be a false brother), how
could this separation be
effectively **administered**?

Distancing from a wrong-
doing professing Believer

to teach him or her a lesson, *may* work within a group where the unruly person has no power or options, but obviously these instructions cannot be applied in every situation. When, for example, a true Believer has already “come out from among them...” (2 Corinthians 6:17) and separated from the masses of ungodly pseudo-religious people, he or she does not have

the ability to isolate anyone; that Believer has had to voluntarily isolate himself or herself.

Paul's instructions simply won't work, practically, in every situation. Nonetheless, the **principle** is the point. That principle is to refuse to emotionally connect with someone who is causing chaos while misusing resources

but not contributing.
That is a good guideline.

Further, one may not
be able to physically, or
even financially, isolate
from someone.
Still, it may be prudent
to at least attempt to
emotionally and
spiritually block an
individual's influence over
oneself when the behavior
of another causes harm to
one's mental and/or
spiritual wellbeing.

Paul says there are
“unreasonable and
wicked” people and that
not everyone has faith—
not everyone is genuine.

He acknowledges that
there are “brothers” who
are “disorderly”, greedy,
and lazy and who would
eat someone else’s food
yet refuse to work (where
they are capable of
working). This is helpful
for those who do not
realize that just because a
person SAYS they are

“Christian”, doesn’t mean they ARE true followers of scriptural teachings and examples.

From this Bible passage, we can see that even within congregations of Believers, not everything is ideal. We may also see the need to seek the Lord to “...direct our hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ (5)”.

Lazy busybodies can
really put one's patience
TO THE TEST, and
depending on how
influential they are, they
may, to some measure, take
one's mind off Christ and
onto the ways of the world.

That's quite serious. Quite
serious! So, we do need to
know how to manage our
lives when having to cope
with lazy busybodies.